

PATENT
Docket No. 265.00260101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

FAX RECEIVED

APR 28 2003

Applicant(s): Watowich et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/981,286)
Confirmation No. 4993)
)
Filed: October 15, 2001)

Group Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: ~~Ardin Marschel~~
S. Zhou

GROUP 1600

OFFICIAL

For: DRUG DISCOVERY METHODS

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Attn: Examiner ~~Ardin Marschel~~ S. Zhou
Washington, D.C. 20231

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X Small Entity Status is entitled to be asserted in the above-identified application.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to taking up the above-identified application for examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claim 25. The amended claim is provided below in clean form. Per 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, amended claims are also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate changes made (for convenience, all pending claims, including those added hereby, are provided in Appendix A).

25. ^{AMENDED} A method for identifying a polypeptide within a collection that prevents cell death after exposure to a pathogen or a toxin, the method comprising:

providing a cell comprising a polypeptide that is a member of a collection of polypeptides comprising at least two polypeptides, each polypeptide comprising a fragment of a Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (VEE) virus capsid polypeptide beginning at any amino acid from about 119 to about 124 and ending at any amino acid from about 258 to about 275, wherein at least two consecutive amino acids within the regions of amino acids 129-137, or amino acids 182-189, or amino acids 257-264 are replaced by an amino acid sequence